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Chairman: Mr. Al-Hinai ..... (Oman)

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02-26430 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

Agenda item 117: Elimination of racism and racial discrimination (*continued*)

Draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.84/Rev.1 (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Southwick** (United States of America), recalling that his delegation had voted against draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.84/Rev.1 on the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance at the previous meeting, said that his Government was committed to the fight against racism and related intolerance both within the United States and around the world. In that spirit, his Government had submitted a comprehensive national report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in 2001.

2. Anti-Semitism, which had led to the most devastating genocide of modern times, was still rife. A civilized society should guard against that or any ideology that attempted to denigrate one group of people or led to hatred, exclusion and violence. The World Conference had placed an inappropriate emphasis on a single country-specific situation that was totally irrelevant to the subject matter of the Conference thereby deviating from its original purpose of crafting forward-looking solutions to contemporary racism. His delegation had therefore withdrawn from the Conference and was not a party to the agreement to adopt the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

3. Moreover, it was concerned about the paragraphs requiring an expenditure of funds from the regular budget of the United Nations, to be used for the operation of an anti-discrimination unit in the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the establishment of a body to monitor the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. Not having agreed to the establishment of either body, his delegation had been unable to support the Committee's approval of such mechanisms in the draft resolution.

4. **Mr. Laurin** (Canada) said that although his delegation had remained at the Conference in order to exert a positive influence and to condemn unequivocally attempts to delegitimize the State of Israel and dishonour the history and suffering of the Jewish people, it dissociated itself from all references in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action directly or indirectly relating to the Middle East. Any process or any declaration that did not serve to advance a negotiated peace bringing security and dignity to the people of the region was unacceptable. His delegation therefore dissociated itself from any language that could be construed as welcoming or endorsing the implementation of provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action to which Canada has not agreed.

5. Although the outcome documents contained some helpful language, his delegation disagreed with the manner in which some issues of the past had been addressed in those documents and it regretted the inclusion, without agreement, of an inappropriate footnote on gender. His delegation had abstained from the vote on the draft resolution because of its serious concerns about the Durban process and the outcome documents.

6. **Mr. Aparicio** (Spain), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the adoption of the draft resolution represented another step in the struggle against racism and related intolerance, which ran counter to the principles underlying the Union, namely liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the rule of law. The Union was disappointed that, unlike the other three texts relating to racism before the Committee, the draft resolution had not been adopted without a vote. If the United Nations was to be effective in combating racism, resolutions must be based on consensus. Discussions on racism should not be the pretext for political battles best fought elsewhere.

7. The European Union's support for the draft resolution should not be taken to indicate agreement concerning the programme budget implications, which had only just been received. It would support follow-up work to the World Conference but not regular budget funding for activities not set out in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action or in the draft resolution.

8. **Ms. Mudie** (Australia) said that her delegation was unequivocal in its opposition to racism in all its forms. The international community could combat racism and related intolerance effectively only if forward-looking and positive measures were adopted at every level. Her delegation had, however, abstained in

the vote on the draft resolution because of its deep and continuing disappointment at the divisive political discussions that had occurred during the World Conference. It could not support a draft resolution that endorsed, without qualification, the outcomes of the Conference. It anticipated a thorough consideration of the programme budget implications in the Fifth Committee before the draft resolution went before the General Assembly.

9. Her delegation's vote was not a vote against continuing international efforts to combat racism nor against the many positive recommendations and commitments undertaken; her Government was committed to implementing such recommendations in continued cooperation with the international community.

10. **Ms. Kislinger** (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, expressed frustration at the fact that it had been necessary to vote on the draft resolution. The Group had worked hard to isolate the paragraphs that caused difficulties for some delegations, in hopes that, at the very least, the vote could have been restricted to those paragraphs.

Draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.83/Rev.1

11. **Ms. Kislinger** (Venezuela) speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.83/Rev.1 on the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and said that a number of changes had been made. The sixth preambular paragraph should be reworded to read: "*Welcoming* that the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance addressed a wide range of practical issues that could complement the Programme of Action of the Third Decade". In the seventh preambular paragraph, the words "*Welcoming also* the fact" should be replaced by the word "*Recognizing*"; the word "wider" should be replaced by the word "wide"; and the word "supplement" should be replaced by the word "complement". In paragraph 1, the word "*Welcomes*" should be replaced by the words "*Takes note of*". In paragraph 2, after the words "fifty-seventh session", the words "further appropriate" should be inserted. In paragraph 5, the phrase "in this regard" should be followed by the words "to work within his mandate".

12. Paragraph 7 should be replaced by the following: "*Recognizes* that the outcome of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance presents a guideline for the remainder of the Third Decade and that the success of both the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference and the Programme of Action for the Third Decade will require international cooperation and political will at the national, regional and international levels".

13. **The Chairman** announced that Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the United Kingdom had become sponsors of the draft resolution and noted that it had no programme budget implications.

14. *The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.85/Rev.1

15. **Ms. Kislinger** (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.85/Rev.1 on measures to combat contemporary forms of racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and informed the Committee that a number of changes had been made to the text. The second and third preambular paragraphs had been deleted and replaced by the following: "*Recognizing* that the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance addressed a wide range of practical issues, including measures to combat contemporary manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;"

16. The word "requests" in paragraph 2 had been replaced by "invites", and the text of paragraph 10 had been replaced by the following: "*Affirms* that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, where they amount to racism and racial discrimination, constitute serious violations of and obstacles to the full enjoyment of all human rights;" In paragraph 16, the last four lines following the word "governance" had been deleted and the following new paragraph had been added: "*Declares* that all human beings are born free, equal in dignity and rights and have the potential to contribute constructively to the development and well-being of their societies and that any doctrine of racial superiority is scientifically false,

morally condemnable, socially unjust and dangerous, and must be rejected along with theories which attempt to determine the existence of separate human races;"

17. In paragraph 17, the words "superiority of one race or group of persons" had been replaced by the words "racial superiority", and at the end of that paragraph, all words following the phrase "in any form" had been deleted as had paragraphs 18 and 19. Following paragraph 23, the following two new paragraphs had been inserted:

> "*Calls upon* States to take all necessary measures to overcome the persistent racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance on the basis of indigenous origin or identity;"
>
> "*Expresses* deep concern at the ongoing manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including violence, against Roma/Gypsies/Sinti/Travellers and urges States to develop effective policies and implementation mechanisms for their full achievement of equality;"

Lastly, the following wording had been added to the end of paragraph 34: "inter alia, against Africans and people of African descent, xenophobia, negrophobia, islamophobia/anti-Muslims, anti-Semitism and related intolerance."

18. The paragraphs of the draft would be renumbered as necessary. Austria, Belarus, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom had joined the list of sponsors.

19. *Draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.85/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted.*

20. **Ms. Al Haj Ali** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the term "anti-Semitism", as used in the draft resolution, was not the monopoly of a particular group. Her delegation understood the term to mean prejudice against all Arabs, regardless of their diverse religious beliefs. It would have been preferable for paragraph 34 of the draft resolution to refer to "Jewish, Muslim and Arab communities" as was the case in paragraph 61 of the Declaration adopted at the World Conference.

21. **Mr. Laurin** (Canada) said that his delegation regretted that the agreement on the use of the term "indigenous peoples" endorsed at the World Conference had not been maintained. Since the draft resolution was directly based on the outcome of that Conference, the language agreed upon at the Conference should have been used.

Draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.86/Rev.1

22. **Ms. Kornelíouk** (Belarus), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.86/Rev.1, on measures to be taken against political platforms and activities based on doctrines of superiority and violent nationalist ideologies which are based on racial discrimination or ethnic exclusiveness and xenophobia, including neo-Nazism, informed the Committee that Cuba had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

23. A number of changes had been made to the text. The words "the fact" had been deleted in the first line of the fourth preambular paragraph, and in the ninth preambular paragraph, the words "which are" had been inserted before "based on racial discrimination". The current text of paragraph 1 had been replaced by the following: "*Remains convinced that* political platforms and activities based on doctrines of superiority and violent nationalist ideologies, which are based on racial discrimination or ethnic exclusiveness and xenophobia, including neo-Nazism, must be condemned as incompatible with democracy and accountable governance;" and the text of paragraph 7 had been replaced by: "*Requests* the Secretary-General to bring this resolution to the attention of the Member States, relevant human rights bodies and mechanisms of the United Nations system."

24. *Draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.86/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted.*

25. **Mr. Rogov** (Russian Federation) said that the unanimous adoption of the draft resolution reaffirmed the commitment of the international community to human rights and the dignity and value of the human person and its rejection of any doctrine based on racial superiority. It was also a reminder of the need for collective efforts to counteract the resurgence of violent nationalist ideologies. The text would also contribute to the attainment of the goals agreed upon at the Durban conference.

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (A/56/18)

26. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on its work at its fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions (A/56/18).

27. *It was so decided.*

Completion of the Committee's work

28. **The Chairman** declared that the Third Committee had completed its work for the fifty-sixth session.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.